

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end having a first inside diameter,

a narrow section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube,

a first tapered tube transition section between the first tube end and a first end of the narrow section;

a second tube end having an inside cross-sectional area at least as large as the first inside diameter;

a second tapered tube transition section between the second end and a second end of the narrow section; and

a pump tube section having a third inside diameter which is larger than the inside diameter of the narrow section, wherein the narrow section extends from opposite ends of the pump tube section, [[and]] wherein a combined length of sections of the tube having the first inside diameter and the third inside diameter is less than one half the length of the tube, and wherein the pump tube section engages a pump in an extracorporeal blood circuit.

2. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the narrow section is a tube section not engaged with a pump.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the transition section is no greater than twelve inches in length.

5. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein a wall thickness of the tube is substantially constant along an entire length of the tube.

6. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the inside diameter of the narrow section is at least 0.060 inch.

7. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the pump tube section is adapted to engage a pump.

8. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the third inside diameter is larger than the first inside diameter.

9. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the first end is connectable to a connector.

10. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

11. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube has a smooth transition from the first end to the narrow section.

12. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the first end and the second end are each connectable to a respective external connector.

13. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the tube is formed of a biocompatible plastic.

14. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 1 wherein the transition section is no greater than one foot in length and the inside diameter of the narrow section is narrower than 0.10 inches.

15. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end having a first end inside diameter and a first end outside diameter;

a narrow tube section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first end inside diameter and an outside diameter substantially narrower than the first end outside diameter, wherein said narrow tube section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube;

a tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow tube section, and

a pump tube section having a third inside diameter which is larger than the inside diameter of the narrow tube, wherein the narrow tube section extends from opposite ends of the pump tube section, [[and]] wherein the narrow tube section has a length at least one-half of a length of the tube, and wherein the pump tube section engages a pump in an extracorporeal blood circuit.

16. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube has a wall thickness in the first end which is substantially the same as a wall thickness of the narrow tube section.

17. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

18. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 15 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

19. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end having a first inside diameter;

a second tube end having an inside diameter at least as wide as the first inside diameter;

a narrow tube section between the first tube end and second tube end, and the narrow section having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube, and

a pump tube section having a third inside diameter larger than the first end inside diameter, wherein the narrow tube section extends from opposite ends of the pump tube section, [[and]] wherein the narrow tube section has a length at least one-half of a length of the tube, and wherein the pump tube section engages a pump in an extracorporeal blood circuit.

20. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein an outside diameter of the narrow tube section is substantially narrower than an outside diameter of both the first tube end and the second tube end.

21. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube has a wall thickness in the first end which is substantially the same as a wall thickness of the narrow tube section.

22. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 21 wherein the tube has a substantially uniform wall thickness.

23. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube is a single lumen tube.

24. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the first tube end and second tube end are each adaptable to attach to a connector.

25. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 wherein the tube is entirely a biocompatible plastic material.

26. (Previously Presented) An extracorporeal blood tube as in claim 19 further comprising a transition section between the narrow tube section and each of the first tube end and the second tube end.

27. (Previously Presented) A method to pass blood through an extracorporeal blood passage comprising:

passing blood to a first end of the passage, wherein the first end has a first inside cross-sectional area;

passing the blood through a first middle portion of the blood passage downstream of the first end, wherein the first middle portion has an inside cross-sectional area smaller than the first inside cross-sectional area;

passing the blood through a pump section of the passage which engages a pump wherein the pump section has an inside cross-sectional area larger than both the inside cross-sectional area of the first middle portion and an inside cross-sectional area of a second middle portion of the blood passage;

the second middle portion of the blood passage extending from the pump section, wherein the second middle portion has an inside cross-sectional area at least as small as the first middle portion, and

passing blood from the second middle portion to a second end of the passage having a second inside diameter at least as small as the first inside diameter.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 27 wherein the passage is a blood tube.

29. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first end of the tube having a first inside diameter;

a narrow section of the tube having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter;

a first tapered tube transition section between the first end and the narrow section;

a second end having an inside diameter at least as large as the first inside diameter;

a second tapered tube transition section between the second end and the narrow section, and

a pump tube section having opposite ends each connected to the narrow section and adapted to engage a pump,

wherein said narrow section is distinct from the pump tube section and comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube and wherein said length of the blood tube includes the first end, first tapered tube transition section, narrow section, pump tube section, second tapered tube transition section and second end.

30. (Currently Amended) An extracorporeal blood tube comprising:

a first tube end having a first inside diameter;

a second tube end having an inside diameter at least as wide as the first inside diameter;

a narrow tube section between the first tube end and second tube end, and the narrow section having an inside diameter substantially narrower than the first inside diameter, wherein said narrow section comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube, and

a pump tube section integral to and connected to opposite ends of the narrow section and adapted to engage a pump,

wherein said narrow tube section is distinct from the pump tube section and comprises at least one half of an entire length of the blood tube and wherein the pump tube section is not included with the narrow tube section in determining whether the narrow tube section is at least one half of the entire length of the blood tube.

31. (Previously Presented) A method to pass blood through an extracorporeal blood passage comprising:

passing blood to the passage having a first inside diameter at a first end;

passing the blood through a first narrow section of the blood passage downstream of the first end, wherein the first narrow section has an inside cross-sectional diameter at least 20 percent narrower than the first inside diameter;

passing the blood through a pump section of the passage which engages a pump, wherein the pump section has an inside diameter at least as wide as the first inside diameter;

passing blood from the pump section to a second narrow section having an inside diameter no greater than the inside diameter of the first narrow section, and

passing blood from the second narrow section to a second end of the passage having a second inside diameter no greater than the first inside diameter,

wherein said first and second narrow sections comprise at least one half of an entire length of the passage and wherein the pump section is not included with the narrow sections in determining whether the narrow sections are at least one half of the entire length of the blood tube.